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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-04

FMC-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03

SWF-01 L-02 FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05

IO-10 LAB-01 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 H-01 INT-05 OES-02 FEA-01

SAM-01 EUR-12 /103 R

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APPROVED BY AF/W-JLLOUGHRAN
EB/TT/MA- RKBANKS
---------- 022449
R 071448Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EWWT, LI, ENGR

SUBJECT:ENERGY SECURITY TRANSPORTATION ACT; LIBERIAN
PROTEST

REF: LONDON 14085

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PROTEST NOTE ADDRESSED TO SECRE-
TARY OF STATE WHICH PRESIDENTTOLBERTPERSONALLY DELIVERED
TO ACTING SECRETARY DURING OFFICE VISIT NOV. 5: QUOTE
THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PRESENTS HIS
COMPLEMENTS TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE BILL H.R. 8193 WHICH
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ON THE 8TH OF MAY 1974 WAS APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY A VOTE OF 266 TO 136. THIS

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BILL WOULD REQUIRE THAT CERTAIN PERCENTAGES OF UNITED
STATES OIL IMPORTS BE RESTRICTED TO CARRIAGE BY VESSELS

OF UNITED STATES REGISTRY.

I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY MY GOVERNMENT TO INFORM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA TAKES
THE MOST SERIOUS VIEW OF THE PRESENT BILL, WHICH, IF IT
SHOULD BECOME LAW, WOULD HAVE A DELETERIOUS EFFECT
UPON INTERNATIONAL SEABORNE TRADE IN GENERAL, ESPECIALLY

IN LIGHT OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS OVER THE QUES-
TION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CONFERENCE SHIPPING REGULATION.
SUCH AN ABRUPT CHANGE IN THE MARITIME POLICY OF THE UNITED
STATES WOULD BE CERTAIN, AS WELL, TO ENCOURAGE BILATERALISM
IF NOT OUTRIGHT UNILATERALISM IN SUCH MATTERS. THIS WOULD
BE A PARTICULARLY DEPLORABLE RESULT FOR NUMEROUS
REASONS, BUT AN EQUALLY ADVERSE FACTOR IS THE DIRECT AND
SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN CONSUMER COSTS AND CONSEQUENT
INFLATION, WHICH WOULD BE NOT ONLY TO THE DETRIMENT OF
CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES BUT ALSO TO THE CITIZENS
OF LIBERIA, WHOSE DEVELOPING ECONOMY IS TIED TO THE FATE
OF OUR COMMON UNIT OF CURRENCY, THE UNITED STATES DOLLAR.

AS TO THE DEFENSE SECURITY ASPECT OF THE PRESENT BILL,
IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LIBERIA HAS IN THE PAST BEEN TO GRANT APPROVAL AS A
MATTER OF ROUTINE TO AGREEMENTS PLACING SPECIFIED LI-
BERIAN VESSELS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN TIME OR EMERGENCY. A CARDINAL
ELEMENT OF THIS POLICY HAS BEEN THE MUTUAL RESPECT OF
LIBERIA AND THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SPIRIT OF THEIR
TREATY OBLIGATIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA WOULD CALL ATTENTION TO ARTICLES
VII AND XIV OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE AND
NAVIGATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LIBERIA, SIGNED
AT MONROVIA ON AUGUST 8, 1938. IN THE VIEW OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA, THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRESENT
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BILL ARE CONTRARY TO THE MUTUAL DECLARATIONS OF THAT
TREATY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA URGES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES, RESPECTING THE HISTORICAL, ECONOMIC AND
CONSTITUTIONAL TIES BETWEEN THEM, NOT TO PRECIPITATE
THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME UPHEAVAL AND LIKELY NEGATIVE
CONSEQUENCES FOR EACH WHICH ENACTMENT OF THE PRESENT BILL
WOULD SO UNFORTUNATELY MANDATE. UNQUOTE

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2. DEPARTMENT WILL REPLY TO NOTE. INGERSOLL

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